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#54

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

OCI# 0569/74

April 23, 1974

ROMANIA

Lenin's Birthday Marked

Bucharest has once again used Lenin's birthday to underscore basic principles of its independent policies. The Scinteia editorial commemorating the event stressed that the "creative application" of the truths of Marxism-Leninism to a "huge diversity of conditions--economic, social, historic, and national"--requires a "deep-going analysis of the concrete realities in each country, of the specific peculiarities of each people and each historic stage." Correct application, the article maintains, results in an organic unity of national interests and proletarian internationalism, in which the continuous strengthening of each nation, and the ensuring of equal rights and independence, are essential conditions for strengthening internationalist solidarity. The editorial also specifically mentions that socialism has triumphed in 14 states, thereby explicitly including China--to the certain chagrin of the Soviets.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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Price Increase Rumors Prompt Goods Purchases

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In the past week,

fear

of inflation or currency devaluation has caused widespread hoarding. People are buying up a wide range of goods, from food to major appliances and automobiles. In a speech on April 11, party boss Husak denounced those who are spreading rumors of a general price increase and even a currency reform. He said the currency was strong and consumer price increases were not planned. The US Embassy in Prague commented on April 19 that the effect of Husak's denial was to increase speculation and purchases.

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State Dept. review completed

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